Copy

Brooklyn, Ct. Dec. 17, 1835

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Esteemed friend Shipley:

Not having been in Boston at the time your welcome epistle was received, some days elapsed before I saw it, which will account in some measure for my silence. Although the mercury ranges several degrees below zero to-day, in this village, yet the warmth of my esteem and the ardor of my gratitude enable me to send you a few lines in the shape of a reply.

Be assured that I am deeply affected in view of the sympathy and regard which some of my beloved friends in Philadelphia have recently manifested for me, especially on account of my ill-treatment by an infuriated mob, a few weeks since. —

Among their names I was truly gratified to see that of Thomas Shipley, whose labors in the cause of bleeding humanity have been so indefatigable, so disinterested, and, in a multitude of cases so abundantly successful. I am young in the service — you are old; and if, since our acquaintance happily commenced, we have not always seen precisely alike as to the best mode of advancing the sacred cause of liberty, yet our principles have run pari passu, and our hearts beat spontaneously together. It is cheering to see that the unsophisticated disciples of Christ, and the true friends of emancipation, are beginning to see and

ful and act alike, as it respects both principles and measures. They would have coalesced much earlier, had the same horrible developements of southern and northern sentiments, which now affright them by their enormity, been made at an earlier period. Now that it is proclaimed, from the high places of power, that "domestic slavery is the corner-stone of our republican edifice"; now that the punishment of death is denounced against those who shall plead for emancipation, whether immediate or ultimate; now that the "self evident truths" of the Declaration of Independence are religiously declared to be mere "rhetorical flourishes"; now that Churches, and Presbyteries, and Synods, are impiously voting that slavery is divinely sanctioned, and may properly be perpetuated; now that no man, however venerable in years, or high in station, or estimable in character, can openly plead the cause of more than two millions of stolen men, women and children, without losing his reputation, and subjecting himself to every species of insult, injury and peril; now that lawful and benevolent meetings are systematically broken up, or suppressed, by mobs headed by "respectable" and "honorable" men; now that guiltless citizens are seized ruthlessly, and with perfect impunity tared and feathered, or beaten with stripes, or driven away by force, or suspended upon gibbets, and that a

tempting price is put upon the heads of others; and, finally, now that there is a loud clamor for the passage of laws that shall deprive us of the liberty of speech and the liberty of the press: — I say, now that this is the state of the controversy, and this the condition of our country, and this the direful alternative that is presented to us, hereafter all "good men and true", all who fear God and hate covetousness, and all who love their country and their kind, will rally under a common standard, adopt common measures, and cherish common principles. As in the days of the early Christians, when fiercely proscribed and hunted, they became united in a common bond, as one man, because it was a common cause, and stopped their useless discussions about the eucharist, baptism, and outward forms and ceremonies; so now, we may no longer dwell upon minor points in combatting slavery, but are called by the exigencies of the times and the new aspect of the warfare to unite in one vast, unbroken phalanx, and settle the point without delay, whether God or Belial, Liberty or Slavery, Right or Wrong, Order or Anarchy, Life or Death, is to reign in and over this nation. Who will not, at such a crisis, and in so glorious a strife, come with swift alacrity to the help of the Lord, and of outraged humanity, against the mighty? We must crucify all our sectarian

prejudices, and all our local and political jealousies and combat right valiantly for God and Truth, counting not our characters, or property, or lives dear unto us: so shall we be conquerors, and more than conquerors, through Him who hath loved us, and given himself for us; for through Christ strengthening us we can do all things, even to the extermination of American slavery and prejudice!

I join with you in high commendation of the speech of Gerrit Smith before the Convention at Peterboro'. It will be preserved and read when marble monuments are crumbling into dust. It is the rich, spontaneous, irresistible eloquence of nature - and nature is truth. It is the soul, speaking in thoughts that breathe, and words that burn. It is the impalpable, deathless spirit which our enemies are so insanely endeavoring to degrade and murder. As rationally might they attempt to stab, or brickbat, or tar-and-feather, or abduct the atmosphere!

Most cordially, too, do I agree with you in your views respecting the duty of procuring an amendment to our national Constitution - of that part of it

which is wet with human blood, which requires the free states to send back into bondage those who escape from the lash and the chain. It makes us as a people, and as a State, the abettors of human degradation and soul-murder, and shall we not, if possible, by a constitutional process, blot out that bloody stain? The course of events during the present session of congress will undoubtedly indicate what steps we may wisely take upon this subject.

I like your suggestion, respecting the propriety of holding quarterly meetings of the Managers of the Parent Society, and will allude to it in the Liberator.

It is quite refreshing to see friend Lundy and the Genius of Universal Emancipation again in the field together. They are bullet-proof. Thou murderer Lynch, avaunt!

I am much obliged to friend [redacted] for his donation, and also to you for your kind offer of hospitality to me and my dear wife. Both of us send affectionate greetings to you and your spouse and family.

Your much obliged friend,

(signed) Wm Lloyd Garrison

(over)

N.B. I know not whether you intended the expression of sympathy of my Philadelphia friends, for publication in the Liberator. If not, do not blame me, as I was absent from the city, and did not see it until it appeared in print.

Rev. W.E. Channing has just published a sort of Ishmaelitish work on slavery. He modestly asks us to give up our watchword "Immediate Emancipation," to disband our societies, and to keep our publications away from the slaveholders! The book is an 18mo. of contradictions, and contains some unmerited defamation of abolitionists, although he confesses he has never attended one of their meetings nor heard one of their addresses! However, there are many eloquent and powerful passages in it.

Please give my most respectful and affectionate remembrances to my friends A.L. Pennock and family, James Mott and family. W. Parrish and family, Arnold Buffum and family, &c. &c. Also to Mrs. Atlee, both young and old, with their families, and to Benjamin Lundy, whom I hope to see many times in the flesh.

outside of the letter which is folded
in the old manner.

Brooklyn. Ct.
Dec 18.

Single

Mr Thomas Shipley
Hardware Merchant
Philadelphia
Pa.